

Interagency Wildfire Management Team
Meeting Notes
November 20, 2002

Diana Webb (Risk Reduction and Environmental Stewardship Division, LANL) announced that Bev Ramsey and Lee McAtee have been chosen to lead the Risk Reduction and Environmental Stewardship (RRES) Division and the Health, Safety and Radiation Protection (HSR) Division, respectively.

Gene Darling (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) attended a meeting last week at TA-49 to discuss the status and availability of the helicopter during the 2003 fire season. A second meeting has been scheduled for continuing these discussions.

Doug Tucker (Los Alamos County Fire Department) reported that the Defensible Space Thinning Contract was approved by the County Council. In March, thinning will begin in unburned areas adjacent to approximately 2000 homes in the Los Alamos region. Doug also announced that the County is advertising two forestry positions.

Amanda Kuenzi (Fire Effects Team, Bandelier National Monument) reported that thinning has begun on the fire break along Highway 4. Thinning will occur up to 400 feet on either side of the highway. The slash will be piled and burned. None of it will be chipped. This project is expected to be completed by March 1. Amanda has also submitted an abstract for presentation at the National Fire Conference that discusses the effects of mortality on canopy fuels in piñon-juniper woodlands.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) announced that the RRES Division has posted the IWMT notes on their Division website. The URL, which may not be accessible from the external LANL website, is <http://em.lanl.gov/iwmt.htm>.

Tessa Edelen (Fire Effects Team, Bandelier National Monument) has been participating in rehabilitation activities with the Volunteer Task Force.

Darrell Abeyta (Santa Fe National Forest) reported that the Forest Service continues to assist the Los Alamos County with thinning and fire hazard reduction activities in forested areas adjacent to the County Golf Course.

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, December 4, at TA-21, Building 210 in the Conference Room (142). The IWMT meets every other week and these meetings are open to the public. Contact Randy Balice (balice@lanl.gov, 665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.